

his legs up by delivering newspapers on bicycle. Irons found his leg strength could come in handy.

"I lived in Tuscaloosa on Queen City Avenue," he said. "They blew a whistle in those days to start class. They would take roll 10 minutes after the whistle. I found I could eat my pancakes in time and still get to class for roll call after they blew the whistle.

"Also in those days, the upperclassmen would haze the freshmen. They would wait around Woods Hall—that was the center of campus because that's where the Post Office was—and grab a freshman and carry him upstairs for a paddling. There were two things a freshman could do—lie or run.

"I'd rather not comment on the lying, but that's where I started my running. I found that running was a fun thing to do. I just gradually worked my way up to cross-country."

By the end of his four years at Alabama, Irons had made his name as one of the best, some said the very best, distance runners of his day. Known as "Alabama's Shining Knight of the Cinderpath" (track events were then run on cinder courses), Irons competed all over the South against the best amateur and, occasionally, professional runners around.

"I mostly ran the mile, two miles and three miles. I ran cross-country over hill and dale and streams and meadows. Sometimes they would even throw me in the half-mile to pick up a point in a meet," he said.

After his freshman year, Irons won every cross-country and road race while competing for the Tide. That led to his being named captain of the track and cross-country teams his junior and senior year. In addition, in Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Association competition after his freshman year, Irons never finished worse than second in any race, including shorter-distance races that he ran to help the team score points.

As naturally as the slight 6-footer took to the sport, he did not begin running without some skepticism. "That first race I didn't know that I'd be running so much," he said, "and I asked myself, 'What am I doing this for? This hurts!' So I decided to pick it up and start passing people to get it over with, and I came in first."

And running around town in a track suit in those days attracted more attention than it does today.

"When we'd run down Greensboro Avenue, some of the sweet old ladies would call the police to come arrest these men running down the street in their underwear. The police were understanding, and they asked us to run back another way and not let the ladies see us again," Irons said.

One race that stands out in Irons' memory is his final run in the Birmingham Athletic Club Road Race in 1923. In that race Irons broke the course record by over 20 seconds, and his record has never been broken. And as the three-mile event is no longer run, his record may stand forever.

"I'd been running that race all along," he said, "and I believe I'd won it twice, but for this race I'd bought a pair of kangaroo leather running shoes. All the other runners were wearing tennis shoes, but I had brought these that wrapped around your feet.

"It was raining very hard, and it was a big handicap for them to be wearing tennis shoes, because they kept slipping. It ruined my shoes, and I was never able to wear them again, but I won that race, and the record still stands."

Irons likes to recall the big races that were part of the halftime shows of big football games. The biggest was the one held at half-time of the Auburn-Georgia Tech game every year in Atlanta.

"They'd have the big race over there between the halves," he said. "This was before

they had the bands and the 'honey-watching' that they have now, so we were the only halftime entertainment. We'd leave before the half and finish at the middle of the field with everyone standing and cheering us on. I ran three of those, and won two of them."

After coaching at two high schools and earning his doctorate at Duke, Irons went into the teaching profession. Now 82 years old, he retired a few years ago after teaching history for 43 years at Samford (formerly Howard) University in Birmingham.

In 1978, Irons was recognized as one of the state's outstanding athletes by being inducted into the Alabama Sports Hall of Fame. The drive was spearheaded by his son, William Lee Irons, a Birmingham lawyer (George Irons, Jr., Irons' other son, is a doctor in North Carolina).

"It means a great deal to me," Irons said of the induction. "I never expected to get that. In 1978, I never expected to be heard from again as a track man. There's only one track man in the Hall of Fame from Alabama, myself, and I think there will be a great many more in there, because they've got world-class people competing in the state now. I hope maybe I've opened up the door for some of them."

#### HONORING SYLVIA MARTINEZ

#### HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 2, 1999*

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an extraordinary young person who has recently been named the Junior Carpenterian of the Year: Sylvia Martinez.

As a student attending Carpinteria High School, Sylvia has had many successes. In addition to her class ranking and impressive 3.8 grade-point average, she was the recipient of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Scholastic Achievement Award last year, and a recipient of the Golden State Exams Awards in 1995 and again in 1998.

At school, Sylvia is a leader in the Interact Club, the Director of Elections in the Student Body Association, a varsity player in Track and Field, and was voted Most Valuable Player in Basketball last year. She is a strong role model to other Latina students and an inspiration to many.

Most impressive however, is Sylvia's commitment to her community. Before she was ten, Sylvia was a volunteer at Main and Aliso Schools as a teachers aide and was active in numerous summer Migrant Education programs.

One of her advisors has described Sylvia as a "bright, inquisitive, compassionate person who has dedicated her young life to fulfilling a dream of becoming a successful humanitarian." I believe that someday she will be.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Sylvia Martinez for her hard work, vision, and commitment to her community and world.

#### CONGRATULATIONS TO ANNE WYNNE

#### HON. JIM TURNER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 2, 1999*

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, I wish to recognize the dedicated public service and accom-

plishments of a good friend and great Texan, Ms. Anne Wynne, as she completes her term as a member of the Texas Transportation Commission. As the first woman on the Commission, she has served our state in one of the most demanding of all appointed positions in our state's government. Anne tackled her tasks with more common sense than East Texas has pine trees and a compassionate heart bigger than Big Bend National Park. Her sense of humor became her trademark throughout the Texas Department of Transportation as she visited with employees throughout the state.

During her term, Anne was instrumental in developing a spirit of partnership between the Texas Department of Transportation and the contractors who do much of the actual highway work throughout the state. She encouraged the department to move toward a diversified workforce and she worked with the legislature to create innovative ways to respond to the ever increasing costs of transportation projects. She also continually challenged the department's managers to operate the government agency like they would their own private business.

Those of us fortunate enough to be close to Anne Wynne know that at the core of her philosophy regarding her responsibilities on the Commission has been her great love for the State of Texas. The Commission and TxDOT will miss her deep commitment and dedication to the Texas Department of Transportation's mission.

Mr. Speaker, I know that all of my fellow Texans join me in this expression of thanks to Anne Wynne for her exemplary performance of duty. I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating her and wishing her all the best in her future endeavors.

#### IN HONOR OF LECH WALESZA

#### HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 2, 1999*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Lech Walesa, 1983 Nobel Peace Prize winner, former President of Solidarity Union and the former President of Poland, on his visit to Cleveland.

Mr. Walesa has been fighting for democracy in Poland since he assumed the leadership of the independent trade union Solidarity in 1980. His rousing speech to striking workers from the top of a bulldozer began a social revolution and prompted talks with the government which resulted in legal recognition of Solidarity. After a military crackdown eighteen months later, which resulted in his spending a year in prison, Mr. Walesa continued his leadership of Solidarity underground. After his release, he returned to his mission of a Democratic Poland. He was awarded the 1983 Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts. Mr. Walesa was also named Man Of The Year by Time magazine, The Financial Times, and The London Observer.

In 1990, Mr. Walesa became the first democratically elected President of Poland. His leadership planted the seeds of freedom and democracy in Poland and ended Communist rule. After a term in office in which he set a path to secure Poland's commitment to a free

market democracy and set a model for the rest of Eastern Europe to follow, he retired. Mr. Walesa now heads the Lech Walesa Institute whose goal is to advance the ideals of democracy throughout Eastern Europe.

My fellow colleagues, please join me in honoring Mr. Walesa for his long, hard struggle to bring democracy to the people of Poland.

PRESIDENT'S FY2000 BUDGET  
PROPOSAL

**HON. RON PACKARD**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 2, 1999*

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, in his State of the Union address, President Clinton proposed to create or expand fifty-four government programs. Fifty-four new ways to spend other people's money, but not one major proposal to give back to hard-working American families. While the President continues to champion targeted tax cuts for a select few, the net result for most Americans is plain as day—higher taxes. In case anyone doubted his words that night, President Clinton made sure it was all in black and white yesterday when he delivered his FY2000 budget to Congress.

The President's plan includes more than 80 tax hikes and new fees that would raise the tax burden on the American people by more than \$100 billion over 5 years. According to the President's own plan, Americans shouldn't expect to see any income tax relief until sometime after 2015. This is wrong. Washington does not have unlimited rights to spend the hard earned money of American families without accountability.

A surplus is nothing more than an overpayment by taxpayers that should have never made it to Washington in the first place. We should give it back. The Republican agenda will control government spending and provide American families with immediate, across-the-board tax relief. We will continue to dedicate much of the surplus to saving Social Security, eliminate the death tax and the marriage tax penalty. We should never forget that these dollars still belong to the American people, not Washington bureaucrats.

Mr. Speaker, under President Clinton's budget, big government will prosper and working Americans will be forced to work harder. Under our proposal, families could keep substantially more of what they earn. A ten-percent across-the-board tax cut would return \$600 to a couple earning a combined income of \$40,000. Does anybody really think that this \$600 would be better spent here in Washington?

Mr. Speaker, the choice is clear. Either you support the family budget or you support Clinton's federal budget. I urge my colleagues to resist new spending and higher taxes and to work together to return this surplus to those who earned it, the American people.

HONORING THE FIELDING  
INSTITUTE

**HON. LOIS CAPPS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 2, 1999*

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the Fielding Institute.

The Fielding Institute has been a leader in distance learning for mid-career professionals since it was founded in Santa Barbara, California in 1974.

With the development of a revolutionary "Learning Community" concept that provides lifetime learning opportunities for its scholars, the Fielding Institute has maintained its leadership in the field.

The Institute has built an outstanding reputation for its graduate programs, including doctoral programs in Clinical Psychology, Human and Organizational Development and Educational Leadership and Change and a masters program in Organizational Design and Effectiveness.

Their approach offers highly effective, customized, professionally rich and interactive learning processes, along with significant possibilities for learning created by emerging electronic technologies.

In providing a graduate learning experience using technology that is uniquely tailored to the professional and personal needs of adult learners, the Fielding Institute has been at the forefront of the distance learning movement.

And so Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend the Fielding Institute. They have provided 25 years of service and outstanding graduate learning opportunities to the scholars of California, the United States and the world.

TRIBUTE TO DR. MARGARET  
WALKER-ALEXANDER

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 2, 1999*

Mr. THOMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I stand here today to pay tribute to the late Dr. Margaret Walker-Alexander. Dr. Walker-Alexander was a world renowned author and poet who resided in the Second Congressional District of Mississippi. Dr. Walker-Alexander was best known for "Jubilee," her 1966 novel about slave life. Dr. Walker-Alexander died on November 30th, 1998 in Jackson, Mississippi of cancer at the age of eighty-three.

Apart from "Jubilee," Dr. Walker-Alexander has written more than four volumes of poetry. Among some of her most noted works are: "Prophets For A New Day," "October Journey," "How I Wrote Jubilee," and co-authored with Nikki Giovanni, "Poetic Educations: Conversation Between Nikki Giovanni and Margaret Walker Alexander."

Dr. Margaret Walker-Alexander was born on July 7, 1915, in Birmingham, Alabama. At the age of fifteen, she published her first poem, "I Want to Write," which appeared in the 1934 edition of Crisis Magazine, then edited by W.E.B. DuBois. After high school, Dr. Walker-Alexander enrolled in Northwestern University and the University of Iowa where she received her M.A. and Ph.D. respectively. In 1943, she

married Firnist James Alexander. From this union were born two sons and two daughters.

In 1949, the Alexanders moved to Jackson, Mississippi where she remained until her death. Dr. Walker-Alexander became a positive role model in the community. She taught at Jackson State University where she served as an inspiration to young Mississippians. Throughout her life, Dr. Walker-Alexander received numerous honors and awards for her outstanding literary works includes the Yale University Award for Younger Poets, 1942; Rosenwald Fellowship, 1944; Ford Fellowship at Yale University, 1953-54; and an honorary doctoral degree in literature from Tougaloo College.

In closing Mr. Speaker, I want to salute Dr. Margaret Walker-Alexander for her outstanding work in our literary world. Her works will remain with us for years to come to pass down to the next generation to enjoy her stories and learn from them.

IN MEMORY OF ANTHONY "TONY"  
DeMARINIS OF GROTON, CON-  
NECTICUT

**HON. SAM GEJDENSON**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 2, 1999*

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise with sadness to memorialize Anthony "Tony" DeMarinis of Groton, Connecticut. Mr. DeMarinis, who passed a way on January 25, was a true American hero—a career Army officer, a public servant and a great human being. He will be sorely missed by his family, friends and citizens from across southeastern Connecticut.

Tony DeMarinis served in the United States Army for 32 years before retiring in 1972 with the rank of Captain. He enlisted in 1940 and served in 14 campaigns during World War II. He was wounded in battle and received a battlefield commission. Tony helped the United States prevail in the greatest test of good versus evil the world has ever known and played a role in freeing my family from the terror of the Holocaust. Tony served in the Korean conflict where he received yet another battlefield commission elevating him to the rank of Captain. In another selfless act on behalf of his country, Tony volunteered to serve with the First Army Division—known as the "Big Red One"—in Vietnam. Throughout his distinguished military career, Tony received many honors and decorations, including the Bronze Star and Purple Heart.

After retiring from the Army, Tony continued to serve the public. He was elected to three terms as City Clerk of Groton in the 1980s. In this position, Tony did much more than merely perform administrative duties. He worked each and every day to build pride in the community. One of his most lasting achievements in this regard was securing a large mural depicting the Battle of Groton Heights, the only major battle of the Revolutionary War fought in Connecticut, for display in City Hall. This engagement occurred in Groton and resulted in the massacre of almost every single soldier at Fort Griswold due to the treachery of Benedict Arnold. Tony DeMarinis was instrumental in ensuring the City of Groton received this important part of its history.